

The Intelligencer.

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The Intelligencer.

THE WEST VIRGINIA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

We have on our table the November number of this periodical.

The leading article is from the pen of Prof. F. W. Woods, of the West Virginia University, and is "A Plea for the Study of Languages."

As the article is to be continued in another issue of the Monthly it is hardly fair to speak of it critically, but we cannot help remarking that thus far there seems to be an absence of point in it. What the Professor means by attributing the downfall of the Jewish nation, and also of Greece and Rome, to a neglect of their respective languages puzzles us to understand exactly. Neither do we see the force of the comparison between the Status of Russia and England, by which the latter is made superior to the former on the score of her language. We had supposed that language was rather an outgrowth of National development than the cause of it. The Professor, like nearly all College Professors, is a specialist in the matter of education, and his specialty seems to be the study of the languages. There is much to be said on the other side of his subject. The world is not suffering for the more extensive study of Greek and Latin. Hitherto they have absorbed too much attention. The tendency now is to curtail them and pay more attention to science. The great truths of science have only been properly appreciated within this and the preceding generation. It was but a few months ago that the Centennial of the birth of Chemistry was celebrated. What a flood of light the gradual development of Chemistry has thrown upon the world during its hundred years as compared with any hundred or five hundred years' study of the dead Languages. And what a flood of light is yet to follow its further development! Chemistry is only in its infancy, while the Languages are, so to speak, in their senility. And as it is with this one department of science, so it is, to a certain degree, with other departments. We refer to Astronomy, Geology, Botany, Mineralogy, and their infinitesimal subdivisions. These studies are now taking precedence, as compared with the past, in the estimation of scholars. Not that the study of the Languages is undervalued, but simply that the studies referred to are coming to be regarded as "the weightier matters of the law," of which, with reference to the past, it can be said, "These ought ye to have done, and not to leave the others undone." We do not advocate the neglect of the Languages, more particularly living languages, but "life is short and art is long," and but few of us can like the matches Daedalus, take "all knowledge" for our province. Somebody has said that an educated man should know "something about everything and everything about something." In other words, that while we should have multifarious knowledge, if possible we should be sure to know all about some one department of knowledge. This remark embodies a great deal of practical good sense. In the nature of things education to most people must be practical. "The rich should acquire education for ornament and the poor for a livelihood," says an Arab proverb. The most people come within the latter category. And therefore, life being short, they cannot spend much time in studies that do not furnish actual knowledge, or that do not in some way increase their capacity to acquire actual knowledge.

But we did not set out to spend this much time on the leading article of the Educational Monthly. We have been somewhat interested in looking through the address delivered before the Normal Institute at Charleston by Prof. B. H. Thacker, A. M. We have been struck in reading that address with the necessity that exists in education to have the mind to think closely and logically. And this necessity is only an other plea for the study of the exact sciences as compared with the dead languages. For instance, the Professor in speaking of the business of teaching remarks that the "profession is not without its monuments. The various text books of the land—the great work of the practical teacher—will afford a monument to coming posterity, and will be handed down from one generation to another—as befitting monuments to their authors—monuments that are more enduring than stonework or animated bust." This mixing up of terms—turning monuments into something to eat—and talking about "coming posterity," indicates that the Professor has devoted too much time to the Latin poets. His sentence reminds us of that famous one in Horace, commencing "Ergo monumentum," which the well known college boy translated "I have eaten a monument more lasting than brass," and whose professor suggested to him to sit down and let digestion have her perfect work.

The too exclusive study of languages is thought to make a man's style somewhat pedantic, and when we read a sentence like the following we are inclined to fall in with this opinion.

"The teacher is responsible in that he enters the business of teaching with a preparation entirely uncommensurate with the duties of the undertaking. He sees the petting of the pupil, the humiliating position of engendering his own lawsuits, and leaving blackmail upon unsuspecting citizens to execute a compromise; but he learns no valuable lesson therefrom. He sees the farmer, on the other hand, gradually yielding to his creditors, mortgaging his farm and impairing his energies; but he fails to see that all

this follows upon the heels of a decadent preparation."

This quotation reminds us of the well known remarks addressed to a hostler at an inn, commencing thus: "Extricate this quagmire from this vehicle; see that he gets a sufficient amount of nutriment; and when Aurora shall have again gilded the Eastern horizon I will reward you with a proper compensation."

But we have not time to pursue our observation farther this morning upon the contents of the Educational Monthly for November. We may have occasion to refer to it again—either to the number before us or some future issue.

Quit Work.

Some days ago Joseph Bell & Co., of the Arlington Stone Works, informed their employees that owing to the uncertain condition of trade they did not feel justified in continuing operations at the present price of labor, and would therefore shut down their works. Last week the employees proposed to Messrs. Bell & Co. as an inducement to continue operations, a reduction of twenty per cent in their wages. The firm consented to go on, and on last Monday work was commenced under the new schedule and so continued until yesterday morning, when the men quit work. A portion of the men appeared at the office of the firm, on Main street, and proposed a conference, to which Mr. Bell replied that the firm had nothing to suggest; that the question of working or not working was in the strictest sense a matter for their own (the employees') consideration and settlement. Mr. Bell informed them that they could look through the warehouses and determine for themselves whether the establishment was in pressing need of goods.

The number of men employed by the firm is about thirty. Mr. Bell informed us that about one-half of the men were desirous of continuing work.

At this season of the year a look-out is a very serious matter with most mechanics, and it will become them to carefully review the situation before coming to a final conclusion. Most establishments have a sufficiency of manufactured goods on hand with which to tide over the dull season which occurs during and until some time after the holidays; and which, in case of a freeze of the river, may even continue until the spring trade opens. A long winter of idleness is, to those who have families to support and nothing but their daily or weekly earnings to depend upon, a something absolutely frightful to contemplate. Even where the credit of the laborer is such as to enable him to provide the necessities of life for those depending upon him, a protracted season of idleness, if it brought no other evil fruit, involves the contracting of debts which will burden all his labor for at least the succeeding summer, if not for a whole year; while to those who have not good credit, want of work means half clothed and half fed families with the wretchedness and misery that may well drive a man to distraction or to crime.

These are facts which may well command the attention of the most thoughtful and imprudent, and which we are sure will weigh heavy on the minds of the thoughtful who look below the surface of things and realize that the true policy of the working man is to throw nothing on to the future, but to make the present provide for itself, avoiding debt as he would a pestilence.

We hope to hear soon that the employees of Messrs. Bell & Co. have effected a satisfactory arrangement mutually beneficial to employers and employed.

Virginia Bonds.

Concerning Virginia bonds, the Richmond Dispatch says:

"Mr. John J. Mackinnon, representing the American Bond Funding and Banking Association of London, has been to Richmond lately to consult with some of the leading financiers of the city in regard to the Virginia debt. The association represented by him, says the Dispatch, proposes to fund the entire debt of the Southern States, and has opened negotiations for that purpose. Mr. Mackinnon offered to fund the debt of Virginia, amounting to about \$30,000,000, exclusive of past due and unpaid interest, in ten year four per cent gold bonds—principal and interest payable in London only. The association prescribes as one of the conditions of the contract it proposes to make with the State that the money to pay the principal and interest of the new funded debt shall be derived from a fixed portion of the revenue to be levied on salt, apart for that purpose. To accomplish this end they furnish copies of such acts as will be necessary for the General Assembly to pass to insure the desired success. It is credited with the ability to carry out its plan.

A Springfield (Massachusetts) man, finding that he was a confirmed snore, unable to make an effort at reform, bought a quart of bad whiskey, drank it at a single brief sitting, and instantly joined the total abstinence society which meets beneath the sod. The Republic sees in this an example worthy of the emulation of other sorts and says: "Let them understand that the public expects every drunkard to do his duty and to drink himself promptly, quietly and effectually to death."

CLEANING COAT COLLARS.—Obtain a little spirit of ammonia, and mix it in a little of cold water, then well sponge the collar or other parts until the grease disappears, which it will quickly do. Or, dip a soft flannel in spirits of turpentine, and rub the grease part with it.

Arrested on Charge of Perjury.

WILKESBORO, Pa., December 3.—M. W. Lott, Mayor of Scranton, was today arrested for alleged perjury. The Mayor waived an examination and gave bail for his appearance at the January term of the Criminal Court.

Annual Meeting of Directors.

RICHMOND, Va., December 3.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, was held today, but the President and Directors not being ready to report, the meeting adjourned to the 23d inst.

BY TELEGRAPH

ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT

(By the Western Union Line.)

1111 North West corner of Main and Monroe Sts.

WASHINGTON.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, December 3.—The President has completed his message, and it will be read at the Cabinet meeting tomorrow. It is longer this year than last, covering about eighty pages of folio.

THE VIRGINIA AFFAIR.

It is known in diplomatic circles that Spain has paid to Great Britain only a part of the indemnity on account of the Virginia affair, leaving the remainder and other questions to be hereafter adjusted.

REIGNITION OF JUDGE DURELL.

No one doubts that the President will accept the resignation of District Judge Durell, of Louisiana, just tendered. Durell thus terminates the proposed impeachment which he provided for the selection of jurors for United States Courts, and the enactment of a law regulating the fees and costs of Clerks, Marshals and Attorneys of United States Courts.

The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance in his annual report recommends the re-arming of the Navy with breech loading rifled cannon, which can be done at a very small cost, in view of the reduced number of ships and guns required. The present types of foreign armed cruising ships carry four and a half to six inches of armor, and at present we have no ships except the fifteen-inch in our navy, which will seriously injure the lightness of these armored vessels.

A BUCKS DELEGATION.

Several members of the Brooks party in the Arkansas controversy arrived tonight for the purpose of presenting the case to Congress and urging a decision as to the validity of the new constitution.

NEW ORLEANS.

DURELL RESIGNS.—KELLIGAN SELLING OUT.

NEW ORLEANS, December 3.—A dispatch says that Judge Durell has forwarded his resignation to the President and that Walker Fearn has been named as his successor. The same dispatch says that Kelligan is quietly disposing of his property in this State.

OFFICERS ELECT OF THE GRAND ENCAMPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.